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## A NEW SPECIES OF POLYGONUM FROM OREGON

## Morton E. Peck and Marion Ownbey

Polygonum heterosepalum sp. nov. Herba annua parva $1.5-5 \mathrm{~cm}$. alta cauli rubrotincto subglabro omnino dense folioso floridoque simplice vel basi ramoso ramis simplicibus inter se subaequilongis foliis late linearibus vel elliptico-lanceolatis $\mathbf{1 - 2} \mathrm{mm}$. latis $4-10 \mathrm{~mm}$. longis basi haud articulatis marginibus revolutis apice mucronibus subrigidis albidis instructis ocreis conspicuis albidis profunde laciniatis laciniis subulatis rectis subrigidis floribus plerumque $2-3$ in axillis foliorum fasciculatis perianthii segmentis perinaequalibus linea viridi media tribus interioribus plus minusve furfuraceis albidis usque ad 2.5 mm . longis quam duobus exterioribus plus duplo longioribus staminibus antheriferentibus tribus segmentis interioribus oppositis filamentis tribus sterilibus alternatis achenio olivaceo nitido $1.5-2 \mathrm{~mm}$. longo incluso.

A small annual herb, $1.5-5 \mathrm{~cm}$. tall; stem reddish, nearly glabrous, densely leafy and floriferous throughout, simple or branched from near the base, branches simple, subequal in length; leaves broadly linear or elliptic-lanceolate, $1-2 \mathrm{~mm}$. broad, 4-10 mm . long, not jointed at the base, apex with a stiffish white mucro, margins revolute, ocrea conspicuous, whitish, deeply laciniate, with subulate, straight, stiffish segments; flowers usually $2-3$ together in each leaf axil; perianth segments very unequal, the three inner ones somewhat scurfy, whitish with a median green line, about 2.5 mm . long, more than twice as long as the two outer
ones; anther-bearing stamens three, opposite the inner segments, alternating with 3 sterile filaments; achene olive-brown, shining, $1.5-2 \mathrm{~mm}$. long, included.

Type. In disturbed soil, 12 miles north of Jordan Valley, Malheur County, Oregon, June 13, 1946, Marion Ownbey and Gerald B. Ownbey 2774 (Herbarium of the State College of Washington; isotypes at New York Botanical Garden, University of Minnesota, University of Oklahoma, Willamette University, and in the herbarium of J. F. Brenckle; others to be distributed). Three earlier Oregon collections are to be found in the Herbarium of Willamette University, as follows: dry ground, 15 miles southwest of Burns, Harney County, June 23, 1925, Peck 13911; moist flat, 7 miles northeast of Wagontire, Harney County, June 25, 1941, Peck 20912, in part; moist flat, south base of Wagontire Mountain, Lake County, June 25, 1941, Peck 20912, in part.

Polygonum heterosepalum is an inconspicuous and superficially commonplace member of the genus. When carefully examined, however, its characteristics are such as to require not only an emendation of the section Duravia to which the authors would ally it, but of the genus Polygonum as well. The section Duravia is a well marked group of five species, all of which bear the flowers singly in the leaf axils. In $P$. heterosepalum, the flowers are usually in two's or three's in the leaf axils. The stamens are usually eight in Duravia; in $P$. heterosepalum, there are six, only three of which are antheriferous. Furthermore, in Duravia, the five perianth segments are subequal in size and similar in coloration; in $P$. heterosepalum, the outer two are less than half as long as the inner three, and correspondingly narrower. In this feature, $P$. heterosepalum is seemingly unlike any described species of the genus.

Notwithstanding these ostensibly important differences, $P$. heterosepalum appears more closely related to the species of the section Duravia than to those of any other section. With these species it agrees in its thick mucronate leaves and laciniate ocreae. Habitally, it resembles P. Parryi Greene of this section, and it is possible that it may be found under this name in herbaria.

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